

Message Text

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ACTION DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 IO-12 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 SCS-03 SCA-01 RSR-01 EUR-25 /121 W

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R 280420 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3855

CINCPAC

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

USMISSION GENEVA

USDEL JEC PARIS

CDR JCRC NKP THAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 3265

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS PFOR LA

SUBJECT: CASUALTY RESOLUTIONS IN LAOS; LAO RED CROSS

REF: CINCPAC 252202 Z APR 73

1. REFTEL SUGGESTS WE APPROACH RLG AND LPF TO PROPOSE THAT USG ENTER INTO CONTACT WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE NATIONAL RED CROSS SOCIETIES TO CONDUCT CASUALTY RESOLUTION ACTIVITIES. APART FROM FACT THAT THERE IS ONLY ONE NATIONAL RED CROSS SOCIETY IN THE KINGDOM OF LAOS (WITH HEADQUARTERS IN VIENTIANE), RECOGNIZED BY LICROSS AND ICRC, THERE IS NO VIABLE LPF RED CROSS ORGANIZATION THAT PERFORMS TRADITIONAL RED CROSS FUNCTIONS.

2. IN EFFORT TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER THERE WAS ANY LPF ORGANIZATION TO WHICH PROPOSAL MAY BE ADDRESSED, WE DISCUSSED CINCPAC CONCEPT WITH ICRC REP WERNER BLATTER, WHO IS MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE AUTHORITY IN LAOS REGARDING LOCAL RED CROSS ORGANIZATION, CAPABILITY AND POTENTIAL. HE STATES THAT HE HAS ATTEMPTED
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UNSUCCESSFULLY FOR YEARS TO PERSUADE LPF TO RECOGNIZE ICRC AND

LAOS NATIONAL SOCIETY IN EFFORT TO IMPLEMENT TRADITIONAL RED CROSS PW/ MIA AND OTHER FUNCTIONS. HE POINTED OUT THAT IN PAST MONTH, LPF HAD RE- EMPHASIZED ITS POSITION BY INSISTING THAT MEDICAL SUPPLIES BEING SHIPPED TO SAM NEUA BY ICRC BE CONSIGNED TO LPF CENTRAL COMMITTEE AS THERE WAS NO RED CROSS OR OTHER SIMILAR HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATION THAT COULD ACCEPT THEM IN LPF ZONE.

3. SHORTLY AFTER DISCUSSION WITH BLATTER, WE RECEIVED BANGKOK FBIS 261042 Z APRIL 73 DATELINED SAM NEUA APRIL 26 WHICH TRANSMITS TEXT OF LPF RED CROSS SOCIETY TELEGRAM OF CONDOLENCE TO DRV COUNTERPART. BLATTER'S IMMEDIATE COMMENT, WHEN INFORMED, WAS THAT LPF RED CROSS SOCIETY MUST HAVE BEEN CREATED FOR PURPOSE OF SENDING THE TELEGRAM. HOWEVER, HE CONSIDERS THAT OFFICIAL REFERENCE TO AN LPF RED CROSS SOCIETY IS A SIGNIFICANT BREAK-THROUGH FOR ICRC PURPOSES AND HE PLANS TO SEEK EARLY APPOINTMENT WITH SOTH PHETRASY OR PHOUMI VONGVICHIT TO CLARIFY SOCIETY'S EXISTENCE WHICH MIGHT SERVE AS BASIS FOR ICRC PROGRAMMING IN LPF ZONE.

4. THE CINCPAC CONCEPT PROVIDES A REALISTIC ALTERNATIVE TO DIRECT US MILITARY PARTICIPATION IN IMMEDIATE SEARCH EFFORTS IN LAOS. THIS EMBASSY THEREFORE RECOMMENDS THAT IT BE APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE TO BE USED AS POSSIBLE BASIS FOR DISCUSSION AS WE CONTINUE OUR DIALOGUE WITH THE LPF.
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